

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1: (Currently Amended) A method of decorating an article comprising:

~~a step consisting of~~ preparing a transfer sheet by printing same with at least one heat-activated ~~ink, substance;~~ substance; and

~~a transfer step consisting of~~ transferring the heat-activated substance to the article by applying said transfer sheet to the article to form an assembly ~~be decorated~~ and heating the assembly, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein heating is performed by quenching the assembly ~~article to be decorated, which is associated with the transfer sheet,~~ in a non-ferrous metal alloy bath, which is maintained at a nominal temperature for the activation of said heat-activated substance.

Claim 2: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bath ~~is made up of~~ includes an alloy ~~containing~~ comprising antimony, tin, bismuth and lead.

Claim 3: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bath ~~is made up of~~ includes an alloy ~~containing~~ comprising bismuth, lead, tin and cadmium.

Claim 4: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the bath ~~is made up of~~ includes a non-ferrous metal alloy ~~containing~~ comprising bismuth.

Claim 5: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to ~~any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the article ~~to be decorated~~ is enclosed in a film of Teflon on which an image is printed using at least one heat-activated substance.

Claim 6: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to ~~any one of the claims from 1 to 4, characterised in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the article ~~to be decorated~~ is enclosed in a sheet of backing paper on which an image is printed using at least one heat-activated substance.

Claim 7: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to ~~any one of the claims from 1 to 4, characterised in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the article ~~to be decorated~~ is enclosed in a sheet of transfer paper on which an image is printed using at least one heat-activated substance.

Claim 8: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to ~~any one of the claims from 1 to 4, characterised in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the article ~~to be decorated~~ is enclosed in a flocked material on which an image is printed using at least one heat-activated substance.

Claim 9: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that Claim 1, wherein said heat-activated substance is a sublimable ink.

Claim 10: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that Claim 1, wherein the heat-activated substance is an ink of the "thermofusible" type.

Claim 11: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that Claim 1, wherein the heat-activated substance is a gold leaf.

Claim 12: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to at least one of the claims from 1 to 9, characterised in that it comprises a transfer step in which Claim 1, wherein the transfer sheet forms a watertight envelope around the article to be decorated, which is connected to a depression spring, during the step of transferring the heat-activated substance to the article.

Claim 13: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, characterised in that the heating to activate the ink during the transfer step is assured by immersion in wherein the bath includes a non-ferrous metal alloy consisting of bismuth, lead, tin and cadmium (Bi 50%, Pb 25%, Sn 12.5%, Cd 12.5%), which has a melting point of around 70°C, maintained at a temperature of around 190°C.

Claim 14: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein the transfer sheet comprises a substrate ~~consists~~ of backing paper.

Claim 15: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the heat-activated substance ~~consists, for example, of~~ includes a heat-activated glue that comprises pigments or metal powders.

Claim 16: (Currently Amended) The method of decorating an article according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it comprises a step consisting of~~ comprising unwinding a transfer sheet in the form of a strip[[,]] and ~~of~~ bringing it into contact with a wire to be decorated upstream from the bath.

Claim 17: (Cancelled).